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ABSTRACT

This booklet outlines Illinois' eight goals for its public school system for the 21st century. The first two goals reflect a vision for Illinois education. In general, these goals provide an outline of expectations and aspirations for students. The other six goals reflect the nature of support necessary for that responsibility to be successfully met. This new system will develop in all students the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes that will enable all residents to lead productive and fulfilling lives in a complex and changing society. The eight goals for Illinois students are: (1) exhibit mastery of the learner outcomes defined in the State Goals for Learning; (2) be literate, lifelong learners; (3) be served by an education delivery system which focuses on student outcomes, promotes maximum flexibility for shared decision making at the local level, and has an accountability process; (4) have access to schools and classrooms with highly qualified and effective professionals; (5) attend schools which actively develop the support, involvement and commitment of their community by the establishment of partnerships; (7) attend a school that is supported by an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system of finance; and (8) receive the support services necessary to enter the public school system ready to learn. The booklet also compares Illinois' goals to the national goals of the America 2000 initiative. An appendix provides the Illinois State Goals for Learning in the language arts, mathematics, biological and physical sciences, social sciences, fine arts, and physical development and health. (MDM)

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ILLINOIS GOALS

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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ILLINOIS GOALS

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

1992

Developed and adopted
by the Illinois State Board of Education
on behalf of the people of Illinois

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INTRODUCTION

There is an adage which says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. In truth, a journey must begin before that first step, with a conscious decision about where the journey should end. Without a destination, all of our efforts may be for naught.

In 1975, the newly created State Board of Education identified the destination for Illinois schools through a set of goals based on "the fundamental belief that society and all who learn must be provided with no less than a high-quality, fully integrated educational system." Over the next seventeen years, these goals provided a valuable point of reference for the Board and for local school districts.

But while some aspects of education remain the same as in 1975—for example, the concern about adequate financing for education—much has changed since the original goals were developed. The world has become more interdependent; other nations have challenged America's economic superiority; the family has fractured almost beyond recognition; and our students reflect a much more diverse array of cultures and languages.

In late 1990, the State Board began a process intended to result in *new* goals for Illinois education, goals which would reflect these changes in the larger society and shape the education of our children for life in the 21st century. That process of strategic planning and public input—which we called "Expanding the Vision"—has now been completed, and with the help of hundreds of citizens from all walks of life, the Board has identified eight basic goals for the future.

Two of these new goals (#1 and 2) reflect a vision for Illinois education. In broad, general terms, these goals provide an outline of our expectations and aspirations for students and define the mission and responsibility of our educational system.

The other six new goals (#3 through 8) reflect the nature of support which will be necessary for that responsibility to be successfully met. In effect, these goals define the characteristics of an educational system significantly different from the one we have known in the past.

Together, these eight goals establish the new destination toward which our state must move and provide direction for each of our steps along the way.

As we begin 1992, the State Board has committed itself to providing leadership for developing a world-class educational system in Illinois. However, we know that we cannot achieve these goals alone, and so we will be seeking a similar commitment from government, business and industry, parents, social agencies, educators, and the general public.

The education of our children must be a priority for everyone.

■

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY:

THE CHALLENGE AND THE VISION

VISION STATEMENT

As we approach the 21st century, there is broad-based agreement that the education we provide for our children will determine America's future role in the community of nations, the character of our society, and the quality of our individual lives. Thus, education has become the most important responsibility of our nation and our state, with an imperative for bold new directions and renewed commitments.

To meet the global challenges this responsibility presents, the State of Illinois will provide the leadership necessary to guarantee access to a system of high-quality public education. This system will develop in all students the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that will enable all residents to lead productive and fulfilling lives in a complex and changing society. All students will be provided appropriate and adequate opportunities to learn to:

- communicate with words, numbers, visual images, symbols and sounds;
- think analytically and creatively, and be able to solve problems to meet personal, social and academic needs;

- contribute as citizens in local, state, national and global communities;
- understand and appreciate the diversity of our world and the interdependence of its peoples;
- work independently and cooperatively in groups;
- develop physical and emotional well-being;
- contribute to the economic well-being of society; and
- continue to learn throughout their lives.

■

MISSION STATEMENT

The State Board of Education believes that the current educational system is not meeting the needs of the people of Illinois. Substantial change is needed to fulfill this responsibility. The State Board of Education will provide the leadership necessary to begin this process of change by committing to the following goals.

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ILLINOIS GOALS

1. Each Illinois public school student will exhibit mastery of the learner outcomes defined in the State Goals for Learning, demonstrate the ability to solve problems and perform tasks requiring higher-order thinking skills, and be prepared to succeed in our diverse society and the global work force.

2. All people of Illinois will be literate, lifelong learners who are knowledgeable about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and able to contribute to the social and economic well-being of our diverse, global society.

3. All Illinois public school students will be served by an education delivery system which focuses on student outcomes, promotes maximum flexibility for shared decision making at the local level, and has an accountability process which includes rewards, interventions and assistance for schools.

4. All Illinois public school students will have access to schools and classrooms with highly qualified and effective professionals who ensure that students achieve high levels of learning.

5. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which effectively use technology as a resource to support student learning and improve operational efficiency.

6. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which actively develop the support, involvement and commitment of their community by the establishment of partnerships and/or linkages to ensure the success of all students.

7. Every Illinois public school student will attend a school that is supported by an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system of finance.

8. Each child in Illinois will receive the support services necessary to enter the public school system ready to learn and progress successfully through school. The public school system will serve as a leader in collaborative efforts among private and public agencies so that comprehensive and coordinated health, human and social services reach children and their families.

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COMPARISON OF ILLINOIS GOALS, EXPANDING THE VISION RECOMMENDATIONS, AND RELATED NATIONAL GOALS

Illinois Goals	**1. Each Illinois public school student will exhibit mastery of the learner outcomes defined in the State Goals for Learning, demonstrate the ability to solve problems and perform tasks requiring higher-order thinking skills, and be prepared to succeed in our diverse society and the global work force.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Develop an understanding of what a "core body of knowledge" should include for all students and incorporate skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving throughout the curriculum; the curriculum must respond to the needs of both non-college-bound and college-bound students.* *Emphasize multicultural awareness and provide students with a global perspective throughout their studies.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy. By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

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Illinois Goals	**2. All people of Illinois will be literate, lifelong learners who are knowledgeable about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and able to contribute to the social and economic well-being of our diverse, global society.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Emphasize multicultural awareness and provide students with a global perspective throughout their studies.* *Teach students to "learn how to learn."*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy. By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement. By the Year 2000, every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

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Illinois Goals	**3. All Illinois public school students will be served by an education delivery system which focuses on student outcomes, promotes maximum flexibility for shared decision making at the local level, and has an accountability process which includes rewards, intervention, and assistance for schools.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Restructure the delivery system to focus on and meet the needs of all children.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn. By the Year 2000, the high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent. By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

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Illinois Goals	**4. All Illinois public school students will have access to schools and classrooms with highly qualified and effective professionals who ensure that students achieve high levels of learning.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Provide continuing professional development for educators and couple increased autonomy with increased accountability.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

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Illinois Goals	**5. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which effectively use technology as a resource to support student learning and improve operational efficiency.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	Increase the use of technology throughout the curriculum.
National Goals	By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

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Illinois Goals	**6. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which actively develop the support, involvement and commitment of their community by the establishment of partnerships and/or linkages to ensure the success of all students.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Establish partnerships with business and industry, community organizations and members, labor, higher education, and families.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

Illinois Goals	**7. Every Illinois public school student will attend a school that is supported by an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system of finance.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Change the way in which education is funded to arrive at an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

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Illinois Goals	**8. Each child in Illinois will receive the support services necessary to enter the public school system ready to learn and progress successfully through school. The public school system will serve as a leader in collaborative efforts among private and public agencies so that comprehensive and coordinated health, human and social services reach children and their families.**
Expanding the Vision Recommendations	*Create an "umbrella approach" to the provision of services to children, with schools as a focal point of the system, and involve many sectors of society.*
National Goals	By the Year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn. By the Year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS

By the year 2000:

1. All children in America will start school ready to learn.

2. The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.

3. American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy.

4. U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

5. Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

6. Every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

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MATRIX OF ILLINOIS AND NATIONAL GOALS

(Shaded areas indicate congruence)

Illinois Goals	National Goals: Readiness	School Completion	Student Achievement/ Citizenship	Math and Science	Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning	Safe, Disciplined, Drug-Free Schools
Outcomes/ Work/Diversity						
Lifelong Learning						
Delivery System						
Education Professionals						
Technology						
Community Support of Schools						
Finance						
Collaboration to Assist Children and Families						

APPENDIX

ILLINOIS STATE GOALS FOR LEARNING

What students should at least know and be able to do upon completing secondary schooling in Illinois.

Adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education on October 24, 1985

Language Arts

The skills and knowledge of the language arts are essential for student success in virtually all areas of the curriculum. They are also a central requirement for the development of clear expression and critical thinking. The language arts include the study of literature and the development of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

As a result of their schooling, students will be able to:

- read, comprehend, interpret, evaluate and use written material;
- listen critically and analytically;
- write standard English in a grammatical, well-organized and coherent manner for a variety of purposes;
- use spoken language effectively in formal and informal situations to communicate ideas and information and to ask and answer questions;
- understand the various forms of significant literature representative of different cultures, eras and ideas;
- understand how and why language functions and evolves.

Mathematics

Mathematics provides essential problem-solving tools applicable to a range of scientific disciplines, business, and everyday situations. Mathematics is the language of quantification and logic; its elements are symbols, structures, and shapes. It enables people to understand and use facts, definitions, and symbols in a coherent and systematic way in order to reason deductively and to solve problems.

As a result of their schooling, students will be able to:

- perform the computations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals;
- understand and use ratios and percentages;
- make and use measurements, including those of area and volume;
- identify, analyze and solve problems using algebraic equations, inequalities, functions and their graphs;
- understand and apply geometric concepts and relations in a variety of forms;
- understand and use methods of data collection and analysis, including tables, charts and comparisons;
- use mathematical skills to estimate, approximate and predict outcomes and to judge reasonableness of results.

Biological and Physical Sciences

Science is the quest for objective truth. It provides a conceptual framework for the understanding of natural phenomena and their causes and effects. The purposes of the

study of science are to develop students who are scientifically literate, recognize that science is not value-free, are capable of making ethical judgments regarding science and social issues, and understand that technological growth is an outcome of the scientific enterprise.

As a result of their schooling, students will have a working knowledge of:

- the concepts and basic vocabulary of biological, physical and environmental sciences and their application to life and work in contemporary technological society;
- the social and environmental implications and limitations of technological development;
- the principles of scientific research and their application in simple research projects;
- the processes, techniques, methods, equipment and available technology of science.

Social Sciences

Social sciences provide students with an understanding of themselves and of society, prepare them for citizenship in a democracy, and give them the basics for understanding the complexity of the world community. Study of the humanities, of which social sciences are a part, is necessary in order to preserve the values of human dignity, justice, and representative processes. Social sciences include anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology.

As a result of their schooling, students will be able to:

- understand and analyze comparative political and economic systems, with an emphasis on the political and economic systems of the United States;

- understand and analyze events, trends, personalities, and movements shaping the history of the world, the United States and Illinois;
- demonstrate a knowledge of the basic concepts of the social sciences and how these help to interpret human behavior;
- demonstrate a knowledge of world geography with emphasis on that of the United States;
- apply the skills and knowledge gained in the social sciences to decision making in life situations.

Fine Arts

The fine arts give students the means to express themselves creatively and to respond to the artistic expression of others. As a record of human experience, the fine arts provide distinctive ways of understanding society, history and nature. The study of fine arts includes visual art, music, drama and dance.

As a result of their schooling, students will be able to:

- understand the principal sensory, formal, technical and expressive qualities of each of the arts;
- identify processes and tools required to produce visual art, music, drama and dance;
- demonstrate the basic skills necessary to participate in the creation and/or performance of one of the arts;
- identify significant works in the arts from major historical periods and how they reflect societies, cultures and civilizations, past and present;
- describe the unique characteristics of each of the arts.

Physical Development and Health

Effective human functioning depends upon optimum physical development and health. Education for physical development and health provides students with the knowledge and attitudes to achieve healthful living throughout their lives and to acquire physical fitness, coordination and leisure skills.

As a result of their schooling, students will be able to:

- understand the physical development, structure and functions of the human body;
- understand principles of nutrition, exercise, efficient management of emotional stress, positive self-concept development, drug use and abuse, and the prevention and treatment of illness;
- understand consumer health and safety, including environmental health;
- demonstrate basic skills and physical fitness necessary to participate in a variety of conditioning exercises or leisure activities such as sports and dance;
- plan a personal physical fitness and health program;
- perform a variety of complex motor activities;
- demonstrate a variety of basic life-saving activities.

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The State Board of Education gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following friends of education, whose support and assistance were invaluable in the development of the new Illinois Goals for World-Class Education for the 21st Century:

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The citizens of Illinois who participated in the "Expanding the Vision" strategic planning discussions;

and

The organizations throughout Illinois which recommended participants for the "Vision" discussions.

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We look forward to working with each of them to achieve these new goals.

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